

Claims:

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1. A method for storing data in a cache comprising:
prioritizing a locked way of the cache higher than a recently used way.

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2. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing data in the recently used way.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
prioritizing the locked way higher than a least recently used way; and
storing data in the least recently used way.

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4. The method of claim 1, further comprising locking at least one way of the cache to
provide the locked way.

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continued

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising reading data from a way of the cache prior
to prioritizing the locked way, the way being the recently used way.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein prioritizing the locked way includes setting a bit in a
register.

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprising setting a bit in a register to indicate priority
of the recently used way.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising writing data to a way of the cache prior to

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prioritizing the locked way, the way being the recently used way.

(B) 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

locking a first way of the cache to provide the locked way; and

5 locking a second way of the cache to provide an additional locked way.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising prioritizing the locked way higher than the additional locked way.

10 11. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

setting a first bit in a register to indicate priority of the locked way; and

setting a second bit in a register to indicate priority of the additional locked way.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising setting a third bit in a register to indicate
15 priority of the recently used way.

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13. A method comprising:

locking a first way of a cache;

accessing a second way of the cache;

accessing a third way of the cache; and

5 writing data to the second way of the cache.

14. The method of claim 14, wherein locking the first way includes setting a bit in a register to indicate the priority of the first way.

10 15. The method of claim 14, wherein writing data to the second way occurs if the second way has been accessed more recently than the first way.

16. The method of claim 16, wherein writing data to the second way occurs if the second way has been accessed more recently than the third way.

B1 17. An apparatus comprising a cache having a first way and a second way, the apparatus comprising:

a circuit adapted to write data to the first way if the first way has been accessed more recently than the second way.

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18. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the circuit is further adapted to lock the second way.

10 19. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a memory location adapted to indicate the priority of the first way and the second way.

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a machine readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions capable of being executed by a data processing platform, said instructions being adapted to prioritize a locked way of a cache higher than a least recently used way of the cache.

22. The machine readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein said instructions are further adapted to store data in the least recently used way.